



**ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, February 3, 2010**

The Ethics Review Commission convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 3, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street, Room 1029 in Austin, Texas.

Chair Hughes called the Commission meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Chair Jody Hughes, Lisa Tsai, Velva, Price, Susan Morrison, James Sassin and Jim Henson.

Staff in Attendance: Sabine Romero, Assistant City Attorney, Allen Smiley, Paralegal, Law Department;

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION.

Agenda item 1: No citizen communication.

2. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2, 2009 MINUTES

Agenda item 2: Commission Member Sassin suggested that under Agenda Item No. 1, Citizen Communication the sentence be amended, "Chair Hughes recognized two students from Westwood High School who there to observe the meeting" be changed to "Chair Hughes recognized two students from Westwood High School who were there to observe the meeting." Commission Member Price moved to approve the December 2, 2009 minutes with the change suggested by Commission Member Sassin and Commission Member Morrison seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Agenda item 3(a): Election of Commission Chair. Chair Hughes advised this would be taken up out of order at the end of the meeting.
- b. Agenda item 3(b): Approve meeting schedule for the year. The Commission discussed when to schedule its meetings for the remainder of the calendar year. Vice Chair Tsai moved that the Commission adopt the following tentative meeting dates: April 13, 2010, August 24, 2010 and October 12, 2010. Commission Member Henson seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.
- c. Agenda item 3(c): Review new City Clerk election forms. Sabine Romero advised the Commission that the City Clerk's office has amended the forms to be included in candidate packets for future city elections. The forms were amended by the City Clerk's office to reflect changes to the City Code. The Commission discussed each of the forms individually and suggested changes. Several Commission members expressed a desire to review Chapter 2-2 of the City Code at a future meeting in order to consider recommending changes to this Chapter to City Council to strengthen the campaign finance reporting requirements. Commission Member Henson moved to approve the

forms with the noted changes. Commission Member Sassin seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 approving Schedule V, Schedule W, Schedule X, Schedule Y, and Special Report of Expenditures Not By a Candidate.

- d. Agenda item 3(d) Discussion whether to do optional annual review and work plan. After some discussion the Commission decided to postpone any action on this item to the next meeting when the Commission will have the opportunity to review its last annual review and work plan.
- e. Agenda item 3(e): Overview of the *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision. Sabine Romero provided the Commission with a brief overview of the Supreme Court's recent decision summarizing the Court's decision and its implications.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Agenda item 4(a) City Code Section 2-2-14 required disclosure of compliance for City Council candidates. Commission Member Henson provided the Commission with some information concerning the requirements in federal law pertaining to internet campaign finance disclosures. The Commission decided to carry this item forward and consider it at its next meeting along with considering proposed changes to campaign finance provisions of the City Code.
- b. Agenda item 4(b) Commission's duties under the City Code Chapter 2-2 campaign finance, penalties, and enforcement. The Commission members discussed their individual contacts with their respective sponsoring City Council Members. The Commission will move forward with preparing proposed changes at its next meeting.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda item 5: Items for the next meeting are citizen communication, approval of the February 3, 2010, minutes, proposed changes to City Code Chapter 2-2 specifically required disclosure of compliance for City Council candidates and the Commission's duties under City Code Chapter 2-2 campaign finance, penalties.

Chair Hughes called for brief recess of the meeting at 7:43 pm.

Chair Hughes called the meeting back to order at 7:48 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

- 3. a. Agenda Item 3(a) Election of Commission Chair. Chair Hughes called for the election of a new Chair due to his upcoming resignation from the Commission. Vice Chair Tsai nominated Commission Member Jim Henson to be the new Commission Chair. Commission Member Price seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. The Commission members also unanimously expressed their gratitude and appreciation for Chair Hughes' service to the Commission.

6. ADJOURN

Commission Member Price moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Vice Chair Tsai seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.